have been connected with National Capital by air;

(b) the names of the State Capitals which have not yet been connected; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to connect them by air?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) The following State Capitals have not yet been airlinked with Delhi;

(i) Kohima

(ii) Itanagar

(iii) Shillong

(iv) Gangtok

(c) Kohima, Gangtok and Itanagar do not have operational airfields. Shillong airport is not fit for operation by aircraft type available in the fleet of Indian Airlines. However, private operators are being encouraged to add more stations in their network including Shillong.

International airports at Cochin and Bangalore

1089. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to develop international airports at Cochin and Bangalore by private enterprise;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the various modes Government have adopted to privatise airports; details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that the growing and popular mode of privatisation is through the Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) agreement between Government and the private operator; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) The Government has given its 'No Objection' to Karnataka and Kerala Governments to construct airports at Devanahalli near Bangalore and Nedumbassery near Cochin respectively with private participation on Build Own Operate (BOO) basis.

(d) and (e) There is no preferred mode of private participation. Each case has to be viewed separately. BOT is one of the methods adopted for attracting private investment.

Leasing of Satellite time to private channels

1090. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan has decided to lease satellite time to private channels;

(b) if so, how much satellite time is proposed to be so leased;

(c) the terms of leasing; and

(d) the names of private channels to whom such time has been so leased?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Unskilled Doctors treating cataract cases

1091. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item appearing in the Times of India of 11th October, 1996 under the caption "Cataract patients are falling victims to unskilled doctors" wherein it has been stated that several